

CLAIMSWhat is claimed is:

- Sub A12<sup>5</sup>
1. A method of providing synchronous cardiac biventricular stimulation by stimulating a left ventricle with a left ventricular lead that includes a left ventricular electrode, and by stimulating a right ventricle with a right ventricular lead that includes a right ventricular electrode, the method comprising the steps of:
    - 10                   generating biventricular stimulation pulses;
    - selectively delivering the biventricular stimulation pulses on demand with a cross-chamber configuration between the left ventricular electrode and the right ventricular electrode, for synchronously stimulating the left and right ventricles; and
    - 15                   verifying capture of the left ventricle and the right ventricles.
  2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the right ventricular electrode and the left ventricular electrode are tip electrodes; and
    - 20                   wherein the delivering step includes the step of stimulating with the tip electrodes.
  3. The method according to claim 1, further including programmably selecting polarities for the right ventricular electrode and the left ventricular electrode to control an activation stimulation sequence.
    - 25
  4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the delivering step includes delivering a biphasic pulse.
  - 30                   5. The method according to claim 3, wherein the delivering step includes delivering a monophasic pulse.

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6. The method according to claim 3, wherein the delivering step includes delivering a positive pulse to the right ventricular electrode and delivering a negative pulse to the left ventricular electrode.

5 7. The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of verifying capture includes sensing in a bipolar configuration between a first right ventricular electrode and a second right ventricular electrode.

10 8. The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of verifying capture includes sensing in a cross-chamber configuration between a sensing electrode pair which is different from the right and left ventricular electrodes.

15 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the right ventricular electrode and the left ventricular electrode are tip electrodes; wherein the sensing electrode pair includes a right ventricular ring electrode and a left ventricular ring electrode; and wherein sensing in the cross-chamber configuration includes with the ring electrodes.

20 10. The method according to claim 8, further including the step of programmably selecting polarities for the sensing electrode pair to control a directional pathway of sensing within the right and left ventricles.

25 11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of verifying capture includes taking cardiac impedance measurements.

30 12. The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of verifying capture includes taking cross-ventricular impedance measurements in a cross-chamber arrangement by applying an excitation current pulse between a first right ventricular electrode and a first left ventricular electrode, and sensing a resulting voltage differential between

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a second right ventricular electrode and a second left ventricular electrode.

5           13.    The method according to claim 3, wherein the right  
ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that includes first and second right  
ventricular electrodes;  
              wherein the left ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that  
includes first and second left ventricular electrodes; and  
              wherein the step of verifying capture in the right ventricle  
10           includes delivering a stimulation pulse between the first and  
second right ventricular electrodes and sensing a resulting voltage  
differential between the first and second left ventricular electrodes.

15           14.    The method according to claim 3, wherein the right  
ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that includes first and second right  
ventricular electrodes;  
              wherein the left ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that  
includes first and second left ventricular electrodes; and  
              wherein the step of verifying capture in the left ventricle  
20           includes delivering a stimulation pulse between the first and  
second left ventricular electrodes and sensing a resulting voltage  
differential between the first and second right ventricular  
electrodes.

25           15.    The method according to claim 3, further including the step  
of positioning a left atrial lead that includes a left atrial electrode; and  
              the step of sensing a myoelectric signal between the left  
atrial electrode and the right ventricular electrode.

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16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of verifying capture includes confirming loss of capture by detecting a sequence of time delay and an intrinsic response immediately following a stimulation pulse.

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17. The method according to claim 15; wherein the step of verifying capture includes confirming synchronous capture of the left and right ventricles by detecting an evoked response immediately following a stimulation pulse.

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18. A cardiac simulation system for providing synchronous biventricular stimulation, comprising:

a left ventricular lead including a left ventricular electrode that delivers stimulation pulses to a left ventricle;

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a right ventricular lead including a right ventricular electrode that delivers stimulation pulses to a right ventricle;

a pulse generator connected to the left ventricular lead and the right ventricular lead, and adapted to perform biventricular stimulation with a cross-chamber configuration between the left ventricular electrode and the right ventricular electrode, to synchronously capture the left and right ventricles; and

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an automatic capture detector coupled to the pulse generator to verify capture of the left ventricle and the right ventricles.

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19. The stimulation device according to claim 18, wherein the automatic capture detector programmably selects polarities for the right ventricular electrode and the left ventricular electrode to control an activation stimulation sequence.

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20. The stimulation device according to claim 19, wherein the automatic capture detector performs automatic capture verification of the biventricular stimulation with a cross-chamber sensing configuration.

5           21. The stimulation device according to claim 20, further including an impedance measuring circuit that provides impedance measurements to the automatic capture detector for performing capture verification.

10           22. The stimulation device according to claim 18, wherein the right ventricular electrode and the left ventricular electrode are tip electrodes; and  
                    further including a sensing electrode pair comprised of a right ventricular ring electrode and a left ventricular ring electrode.

15           23. The stimulation device according to claim 18, wherein the right ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that includes first and second right ventricular electrodes;  
                    wherein the left ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that  
20           includes first and second left ventricular electrodes; and  
                    wherein the automatic capture detector verifies capture in the right ventricle by delivering a stimulation pulse between the first and second right ventricular electrodes and by sensing a resulting voltage differential between the first and second left ventricular  
25           electrodes.

                    24. The stimulation device according to claim 18, wherein the right ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that includes first and second right ventricular electrodes;  
30           wherein the left ventricular lead is a bipolar lead that includes first and second left ventricular electrodes; and

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wherein the automatic capture detector verifies capture in the left ventricle by delivering a stimulation pulse between the first and second left ventricular electrodes and by sensing a resulting voltage differential between the first and second right ventricular electrodes.

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25. The stimulation device according to claim 18, wherein the automatic capture detector confirms loss of capture by detecting a sequence of time delay and an intrinsic response immediately following a stimulation pulse.

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26. The stimulation device according to claim 18, wherein the automatic capture detector confirms synchronous capture of the left and right ventricles by detecting an evoked response immediately following a stimulation pulse.

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27. A cardiac simulation system for providing synchronous biventricular stimulation, comprising:

means for generating stimulation pulses;

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means for selectively delivering the stimulation pulses to a left ventricle;

means for selectively delivering the stimulation pulses to a right ventricle;

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means for synchronously capturing the left and right ventricles by performing biventricular stimulation with a cross-chamber configuration between the left ventricular electrode and the right ventricular electrode; and

means for verifying capture of the left ventricle and the right ventricles.

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28. The stimulation device according to claim 27, wherein the means for verifying capture performs automatic capture verification of the biventricular stimulation with a cross-chamber sensing configuration.

5           29. The stimulation device according to claim 27, wherein the means for verifying capture confirms loss of capture by detecting a sequence of time delay and an intrinsic response immediately following a stimulation pulse.

10           30. The stimulation device according to claim 27, wherein the means for verifying capture confirms synchronous capture of the left and right ventricles by detecting an evoked response immediately following a stimulation pulse.

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